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with 43 species, the composites with 42 species, the grasses with 55 species, the euphorbias with 7 species, and the orchids with 11 species.—GEO. D. FULLER.

**Cuscuta and its host.**—Investigating the relations existing between certain species of *Cuscuta* and various hosts, particularly with regard to the connection established between the phloem of parasite and that of the host, THODAY<sup>15</sup> concludes that the cell walls of the haustorial phloem degenerate, and are absorbed at the point of contact with the sieve plates of the host, and the naked protoplasm of the parasite applies itself to the sieve area of the host. No connecting threads of protoplasm are found, and the translocation of food substances appears to be by a passive filtration of the contents of the sieve tubes of the host, forced by internal pressure, escaping into the parasite. This and other evidence favors the conclusion that connecting threads of protoplasm occur only between genetically connected cells. The interpretation of the results contains glaring examples of teleology, as we are assured “that the parasite takes much trouble to make use of the host sieve fields as they are, and not to disturb the mechanics of the sieve tubes”!—GEO. D. FULLER.

**The prairies.**—Studying the prairies of Iowa, SHIMEK<sup>16</sup> concludes that they were originally covered with floras of six more or less distinct types, and gives lists of species for each. He reviews carefully the various theories as to the factors causing their development, and gives a rather extensive bibliography of the origin of this type of vegetation, with brief notes on many of the titles. His principal contribution consists in attempts to obtain quantitative determinations of certain of the factors which may have been efficient in causing prairie development. Conspicuous among the data obtained are those of the comparative rates of evaporation at prairie and forest stations of observation. These data, although very scanty, seem to be significant, and lead to the conclusion that “exposure to evaporation as determined by temperature, wind, and topography is the primary cause of the treelessness of the prairies.”—GEO. D. FULLER.

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<sup>15</sup> THODAY, MARY G. (SYKES), On the histological relations between *Cuscuta* and its host. *Ann. Botany* 35: 655-682. 1911.

<sup>16</sup> SHIMEK, B., The prairies. *State Univ. Iowa, Lab. Nat. Hist. Bull.* 61: 69-240. pls. 13. 1911.